Import of steels

3357. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Indian Express dated the 27th December, 1991, 35,000 tonnes of unwanted steel billets were imported at a cost of over Rs. 18 crores in foreign exchange by the MMTC;

(b) if so, in what circumstances the import was made;

(c) whether the entire equity of billets containing various impurities like copper, was unsuitable for rolling; and

(d) how these billets have been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Against an indent of SAIL, MMTC finalised contract with M/s. Daval, France for import of 35,000 tonnes of steel billets valued at Rs. 18.27 crores, including customs duty etc. The outgo of foreign exchange involved was Rs. 9.74 crores. The purpose of the import was to use it for making light structurals at the Bhilai Steel Plant.

(c) and (d) Part of the quantity supplied by M/s. Daval, France had copper contents higher than permitted under the contract specifications. Of the total quantity of 35,000 tonnes of billets imported, about 10,000 tonnes were used by Railways and the balance, approx. 25,000 tonnes were used by SAIL in their Durgapur Steel Plant instead of Bhilai Steel Plant.

Failure of Tea Boards to Benefit the small tea growers of Assam

3358. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the regional office of the Indian Tea Board at Guwahati has failed to benefit the small tea growers of Assam;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to provide more administrative and financial powers to the regional office; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Necessary administrative and financial powers have already been delegated to the zonal office of the Board. Chief Regional Executive is empowered to receive, process and distribute loans and subsidy in respect of tea gardens under his jurisdiction.

The delegated powers include:

(i) Tea Plantation Finance Scheme	:	upto 50 hectares.
(ii) Tea Machinery and Irrigation equipment Hire Purchase Scheme.	:	upto Rs. 7.5 lakhs against the maximum ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs.
(iii) Replantation and Rejuvenation Subsidy Scheme	:	upto 50 hectares.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र व्यापार और विकास सम्मेलन (अंकटाड) के निर्णयों का प्रभाव

3359. **श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर:**
श्री घूलेश्वर मीणा:

क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) हाल ही में आयोजित संयुक्त राष्ट्र व्यापार और विकास सम्मेलन (अंकटाड) की आठवीं बैठक में लिए गए निर्णयों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उन पर सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है;

(ग) इस बैठक में लिए गए निर्णयों का विकासशील देशों के साथ-साथ भारत पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा;

(घ) इन निर्णयों के फलस्वरूप भारत को होने वाले लाभ तथा हानि का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) उरूग्वे दौर की अगली वार्ता के लिए क्या आधार तैयार किए गए हैं?

वाणिजय मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम्): (क) से (ङ) संयुक्त राष्ट्र व्यापार एवं विकास सम्मेलन (अंकटाड 8) का 8 वां सत्र कार्टगेना